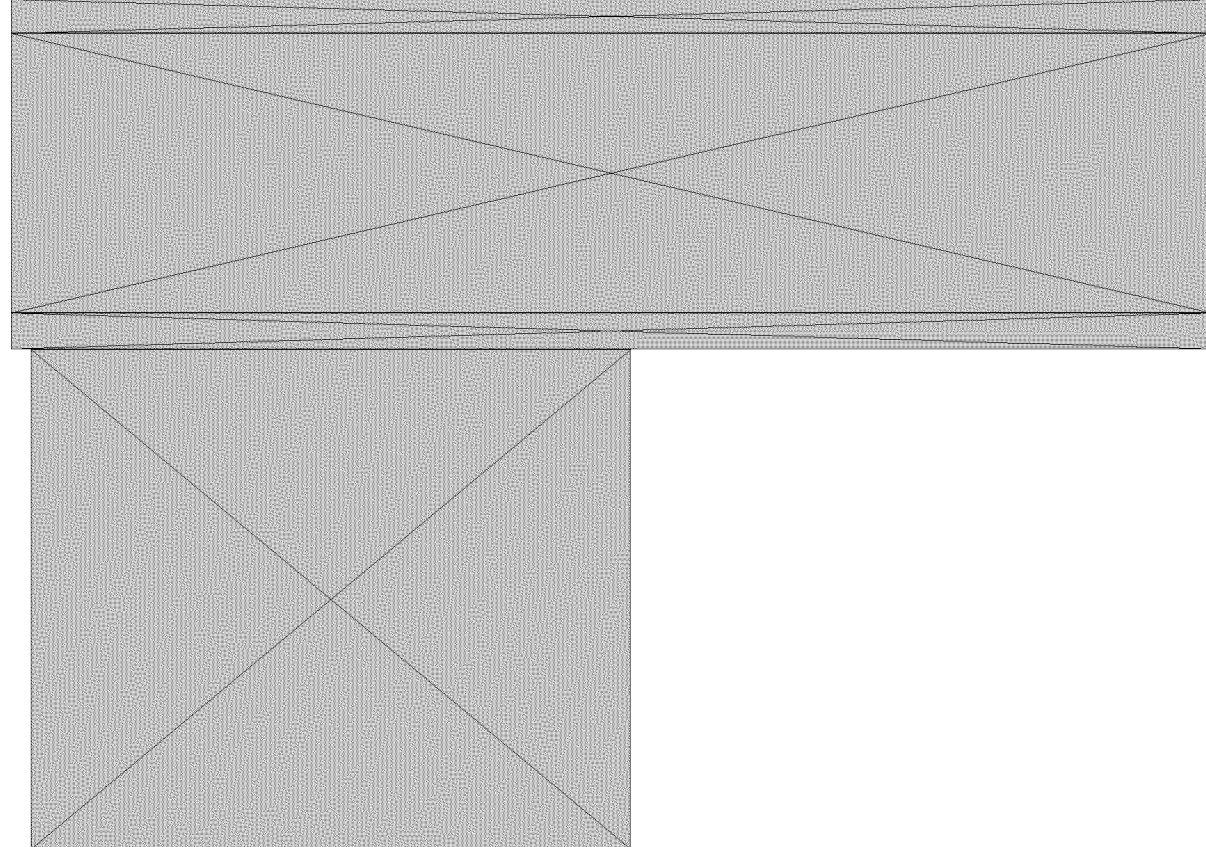


To: Szaro, Deb[Szaro.Deb@epa.gov]
From: EnergyGuardian
Sent: Tue 10/13/2015 9:22:38 PM
Subject: Go bold on climate, governors and greens ask Dem candidates

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Energy and environment headlines for the afternoon of Tuesday, October 13, 2015



Go bold on climate, governors and greens ask Dem candidates

By Kevin Rogers

Environmentalists and a group of Democratic governors are calling on the five Democratic presidential contenders to use tonight's debate to lay out specific plans to combat climate change and promote the expansion of clean energy.

As former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island

Gov. Lincoln Chafee gathered in Las Vegas for the first debate of the 2016 cycle, several environmental groups were lobbying them – and the debate's moderators – to give climate change top billing.

In a joint statement released by the climate action advocacy group NextGen Climate, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, Delaware Gov. Jack Markell and Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin said they were “on the frontlines in the fight against the impacts of climate change” and needed a candidate who would drive strong federal climate action. They argued that climate policy couldn't be a “footnote” in the party's 2016 platform.

“Climate change is an urgent threat to our country's economy, health, and communities – and as governors we don't have the luxury of ignoring this crisis,” they said. “Individual states can't solve this issue alone – the magnitude of the climate crisis requires leadership at every level of government. Our next president must stand with governors across this country and take decisive action to cut carbon pollution and build America's clean energy future.”

Tom Steyer, president of NextGen, told reporters on a call that Democrats would have a unique opportunity to make an economic case for clean energy development and climate action – something that Republican contenders haven't made. But he warned that Democrats would have to get specific.

“Seizing on this growth strategy is the ultimate opportunity for the Democratic party, especially this year,” he said. “We're not looking for well-meaning intentions and concern at this point. We're actually looking for specific plans that explain how we're going to get there and how it's integrated into an entire program.”

Advocates for the coal industry called on the candidates to lay out the economic impact of emissions-fighting regulations and compare the costs with the benefits.

NextGen has called on Democratic candidates to lay out a plan to remake the country's power portfolio so that half of U.S. energy consumption is from renewable power by 2030, and the country is powered entirely by renewables by 2050. The group has launched a print and video campaign to lobby the Democratic National Committee to schedule a separate debate focused on climate and energy issues.

The Sierra Club also laid out its wish list ahead of the debate, calling on candidates to vow to defend and strengthen the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, uphold any agreement coming from December's United Nations climate negotiations, and to lay out a game plan for getting the U.S. on track toward 100-percent renewable energy.

“As the Democratic party chooses its next nominee for President, action on climate and climate-smart policies, advocacy for the booming clean energy economy, and ensuring we all have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink will be top priorities – and must be top topics of discussion,” Political Director Khalid Pits wrote in a blog post.

The group also urged Democrats to come out forcefully against the Keystone XL pipeline

and Arctic drilling and to support public land conservation efforts.

The National Resources Defense Council Action Fund and the League of Conservation Voters have also launched online campaigns pressing Tuesday's moderators to make climate change a central part of the debate.

The candidates were being lobbied by the opposite side of the climate equation, too, with the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a coal industry group, calling on the Democrats to detail the potential economic impacts of the Clean Power Plan and justify their support for the Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

EPA's carbon rule sets a 2030 deadline for cutting power plant carbon emissions 32 percent below 2005 levels. All of the Democrats, with the exception of Webb, have gone on the record in support of the regulations. Webb's campaign did not return a request for comment.

"The debate presents an excellent opportunity for the candidates to explain why they are putting the President's political priorities ahead of everyday Americans' pocketbook priorities in this critical election," ACCCE spokeswoman Laura Sheehan said in a statement. "If they fly true to form, the Democratic candidates will be all but tripping over themselves to show their support for the President's costly climate agenda."

Quick Links

[Massachusetts nuclear power plant to close by 2019](#)

[Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania combine on gas drilling](#)

[Shell drill vessels leave Arctic after oil exploration ends](#)

[Scandal-hit VW to change diesel emissions technology](#)

[White House: Iran missile test a likely UN violation](#)

[High court won't hear Utah appeal over road access](#)

[Ex-coal CEO on trial talks safety in secretly recorded calls](#)

[Grijalva pushes creation of monument in far northern Arizona](#)

[China jails former oil executive for 20 years for corruption](#)

[\\$34 million in DOE grants to improve energy sector cybersecurity](#)

[Interstate carbon trading may come from Clean Power Plan](#)

Spend big on innovation to fight climate change, says Gates

Oil down as IEA stokes oversupply fears

Denver-based driller overdrawn after credit review

Chevron tows Big Foot to shore for servicing

Mexican wind farm challenged by San Diego residents on environmental grounds

Global warming 'direct threat' to American prosperity: Rice

4 decades on, Wats Bar 2 nuke plant nearing completion

Upcoming Events

Massachusetts nuclear power plant to close by 2019

By Mark Pratt

BOSTON (AP) — The beleaguered Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, the only nuclear power plant in Massachusetts, will close by June 2019 because it's becoming too expensive to run, its owner announced Tuesday.

The decision by New Orleans-based Entergy Corp. comes about a month after federal inspectors downgraded the plant's safety rating to the lowest level and said they would increase oversight in the wake of a shutdown during a winter storm. The owner maintained that the plant in Plymouth remained safe, although it needed millions of dollars in upgrades.

Entergy cited "poor market conditions, reduced revenues and increased operational costs." Bill Mohl, president of Entergy Wholesale Commodities, said the decision to close was a "decision of last resort" and "agonizing."

The plant, which went online in 1972, produces 680 megawatts of electricity, enough to power more than 600,000 homes. It was relicensed in 2012 for an additional 20 years and employs more than 600 people.

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Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania combine on gas drilling

By Julie Carr Smyth

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania have agreed to cooperate in attracting shale gas development and jobs to their region over the next three years rather than compete with each other.

The states signed an agreement Tuesday during the Tri-State Shale Summit in Morgantown, West Virginia. They say they've agreed to coordinate marketing efforts, workforce development, investment strategies and academic research as they capitalize on Utica and Marcellus shale development "in an environmentally sound manner."

Shale gas has become available through the horizontal drilling practice commonly known as fracking.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor says challenges and opportunities surrounding the industry don't recognize state lines so collaboration is essential.

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Shell drill vessels leave Arctic after oil exploration ends

By Dan Joling

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Vessels used by Royal Dutch Shell PLC to drill for oil off Alaska have safely departed Arctic waters.

Shell announced Sept. 28 it would cease further exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas after spending upward of \$7 billion on Arctic offshore exploration.

The company cited disappointing results from an exploratory well drilled in the Chukchi and the unpredictable federal regulatory environment.

Shell experienced transit problems with vessels the last time it drilled off Alaska in 2012.

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Scandal-hit VW to change diesel emissions technology

By David McHugh

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Volkswagen's flagship brand plans to change its diesel technology in Europe and North America as well as develop new hybrid and electric vehicles in response to its emissions scandal.

The new steps were part of a plan to confront the company's scandal over cars that were equipped with computer software that let them evade U.S. emissions tests.

Volkswagen division head Herbert Diess said in a statement Tuesday the company would change its approach to diesel emissions in Europe and North America and adopt so-called selective catalytic converter technology, or SCR. That is a system that injects the chemical substance urea into the exhaust stream to neutralize harmful nitrogen oxides.

He said that change would come "as soon as possible."

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White House: Iran missile test a likely UN violation

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says there are "strong indications" that Iran violated U.N. Security Council resolutions when it test fired a new ballistic missile.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday that such violations are nothing new.

Earnest says the Iranians have "almost serially" violated international concerns about the country's ballistic missile program.

But the White House spokesman added that those violations are "entirely separate" from the historic nuclear deal reached between Iran and world powers.

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A message from America's Natural Gas Alliance

Clean is Powerful. Natural gas helps Georgia Power's plant generate electricity with 50% fewer emissions. Think about it.

[Learn more at www.thinkaboutit.org.](http://www.thinkaboutit.org)

High court won't hear Utah appeal over road access

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from Utah officials

seeking rights of way over several roads that run through federal lands.

The justices on Tuesday let stand a lower court ruling that said Utah and Kane County could only claim rights to six of 12 routes over which they sought control.

The dispute is one of dozens of lawsuits the state and its counties have filed claiming title to more than 12,000 separate rights of way through federal lands. The contested routes range from graded dirt roads to dry stream beds.

State officials assert their rights under a Civil War-era law that allowed settlers to develop trails over public lands. Environmental groups say increased vehicle access would jeopardize animal habitats and degrade other environmentally sensitive areas.

Ex-coal CEO on trial talks safety in secretly recorded calls

By The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Prosecutors are continuing to replay phone calls ex-Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship secretly recorded in his office.

In recordings played in federal court Tuesday, Blankenship said he sometimes thought without federal mine regulators, "we'd blow ourselves up."

Blankenship is charged with conspiring to break mine safety laws and lying to financial regulators about safety practices at Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia, which exploded in 2010, killing 29 miners.

In the recordings, he also said he wanted to mention safety efforts in a news release after the explosion because it was "a chance to do some propaganda there."

And he said he wanted to keep an ex-Massey official's safety memo confidential because it would be a terrible document to resurface in a legal case if a fatal accident occurred.

Grijalva pushes creation of monument in far northern Arizona

By Felicia Fonseca

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva is reviving a push to designate a large swath of northern Arizona as a national monument.

Grijalva, a Democrat, said he would introduce legislation next week to create Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument while acknowledging it likely won't get even a hearing.

in Congress. The goal is to have a template ready that President Barack Obama could consider signing as a proclamation for a new monument, he said.

The proposed 1.7 million-acre monument is a mix of towering cliffs and canyons, grasslands, forest and desert that is popular with hunters, hikers, ranchers and other recreationists. It also includes 1 million acres rich in uranium ore that is temporarily banned from the filing of new mining claims. Grijalva, environmentalists and tribes want to make that ban permanent but have faced stiff opposition from Republicans and the mining industry.

Tribal leaders who joined Grijalva on Monday in a news conference said the creation of a monument would protect the area's water, sacred sites and other cultural resources.

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China jails former oil executive for 20 years for corruption

By The Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese court sentenced a former senior executive of a state oil company on Tuesday to 20 years in prison after finding him guilty of corruption.

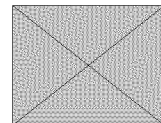
The sentencing of Wang Yongchun, former deputy general manager of China National Petroleum Corp., came a day after the company's former chairman, Jiang Jiemin, was given 16 years' imprisonment for corruption.

The Xiangyang Intermediate People's Court in central China said Wang received 49 million yuan (\$7.9 million) in bribes between 2000 and 2013 and failed to explain the source of another 42 million yuan.

It said Wang — at Jiang's direction — provided assistance to others, causing huge losses to the state.

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Week in Review – House Defies White House on Oil Export Ban

New Climate Change Laws in California.

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\$34 million in DOE grants to improve energy sector cybersecurity

The Department of Energy has awarded \$12.2 million to the University of Arkansas and \$22.5 million to the University of Illinois Cyber Resilient Energy Delivery Consortium for projects to improve cyber defense technology on the grid and on oil and natural gas infrastructure, the Los Alamos Daily Post reports.

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Interstate carbon trading may come from Clean Power Plan

Many states—even a number of those traditionally opposed to cap-and-trade—are in preliminary discussions exploring whether carbon trading should be part of their plans to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, E&E reports.

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Spend big on innovation to fight climate change, says Gates

Bill Gates is working to fight climate change by trying to accelerate the process for inventing new technology in the energy sector, The Atlantic reports.

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Oil down as IEA stokes oversupply fears

A projection from the International Energy Agency saying that the oil glut will persist well into next year dragged prices down Tuesday. U.S. benchmark crude lost 44 cents, settling at \$46.66 a barrel on the Nymex, while in London, Brent fell 62 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$49.24, Reuters reports.

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Denver-based driller overdrawn after credit review

Emerald Oil Inc. says it is \$20 million overdrawn after lenders reduced the company's credit line by 40 percent, so it has entered negotiations with the banks on how to pay back what's owed, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Chevron tows Big Foot to shore for servicing

After problems with platform anchors delayed Chevron's multibillion dollar Big Foot drilling project in the Gulf of Mexico, the company has towed the platform back to South Texas for servicing and is investigating what went wrong, FuelFix reports.

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Mexican wind farm challenged by San Diego residents on environmental grounds

A lawsuit against Energia Sierra Juarez—a joint U.S.-Mexican wind project that sells all of its output to San Diego Gas & Electric—also names the Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and claims DOE didn't consider environmental impacts in Mexico before signing off on the deal, KPBS reports.

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Global warming 'direct threat' to American prosperity: Rice

Joining the Obama administration push to promote the fight against climate change ahead of the U.N. talks in Paris, National Security Adviser Susan Rice told an audience at Stanford University that the “advancing menace” of climate change is the biggest long-term challenge on the planet, Politico reports.

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4 decades on, Wats Bar 2 nuke plant nearing completion

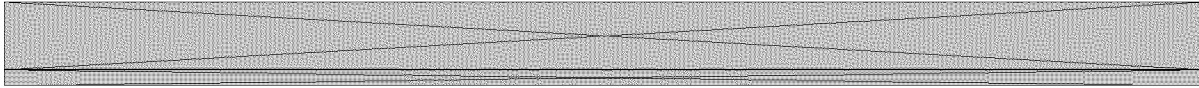
With the Tennessee Valley Authority's Wats Bar Unit 2 nuclear plant due to come online early next year—construction on it having started in 1972—the Los Angeles Times argues that the facility's history is symbolic of problems in the industry.

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 13, Las Vegas: CNN to host the first Democratic 2016 presidential debate. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee to debate. 9:30 pm
- Oct. 13, Washington: The Environmental and Energy Study Institute to hold a briefing on the bipartisan PREPARE Act, which would reform extreme weather response and recovery efforts to save taxpayer money. Government Accountability Office Assistant Director for Natural Resources and Environment Joe Thompson to speak. 10:30 am
- Oct. 13, Washington: The Wilson Center and the Canada Institute to host a discussion on climate policy views in the U.S. and Canada. 9:00 am , Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.
- Oct. 14, Washington: The District of Columbia Bar to hold a discussion on the legality of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. Natural Resources Defense Council Climate and Clean Air Director David Doniger, Georgetown Professor Lisa Heizerling and

- Bracewell & Giuliani partner Jeff Holmstead to speak. 12:30 pm , 1101 K Street, NW.
- Oct. 14, Washington: International Energy Agency Energy Efficiency and Environment Division chief Phillipe Benoit to discuss the agency's 2015 Energy Efficiency Market Report. 12:30 pm , 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.
 - Oct. 14, Washington: Former General Motors Chief Technology Officer Larry Burns, Domino's Pizza Executive Vice President Lynn Liddle and Securing America's Future Energy CEO Robby Diamond to participate in a discussion on the future for autonomous vehicles. 10:00 am , National Press Club
 - Oct. 14, Washington: Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz to give keynote address at the final day of the National Summit on Smart Grid and Climate Change. 9:00 am , Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill.



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